

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (MANN, JAMES R.)
SUBJECT: CODEL MANN: ACTIVITIES FOR WIVES

REF: (A) STATE 152624; (B) BANGKOK 14554

1. BANGKOK AND ITS ENVIRONS OFFER A VARIETY OF CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN EASY REACH OF THE HOTEL. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY RECOMMEND A VISIT TO ONE OR MORE THE FOLLOWING:

THE GRAND PALACE - A PANORAMA OF COLORFUL THAI ARCHITECTURE, TEMPLES, STATUES AND MURALS. THE TEMPLE HOUSING THE FAMOUS EMERALD BUDDHA IS LOCATED ON THE GROUNDS. THE NEARBY WEEKEND MARKET PROVIDES AN INTERESTING LOOK AT THAI LIFE (ON SATURDAYS AND SU DAYS). THAI ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WHEN FOREIGN GUESTS SHOW AN INTEREST IN VISITING THE HISTORIC SITES IN AND AROUND THE GRAND PALACE.

TRIP TO AYUTTHAYA - ONE HOUR BUSS TRIP TO THE SITE OF THAILAND'S FORMER CAPITAL. AFTER VISITING THE RUINS OF AYUTTHAYA, THERE IS A TOUR OF THE SUMMER PALACE AT BANGK
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PRA-IN AND A LEISURELY RETURN TRIP BY BOAT WHICH AFFORDS A VIEW OF RIVER LIFE. BUFFET LUNCH IS SERVED ABOARD THE BOAT. COST IS FIFTEEN DOLLARS.

ROSE GARDEN - A DAILY CULTURAL SHOW OF THAI DANCING, BOXING AND CUSTOMS IN A RURAL SETTING, ABOUT ONE HOUR FROM BANGKOK.

SUAN PAKKARD PALACE - THAI STYLE HOUSES AND A COLLECTION OF THAI ART AND ANTIQUES, INCLUDING PIECES OF 6,000 YEAR OLD POTTERY FROM THE BAN CHIANG DIGGINGS IN NORTHEAST THAILAND.

FLOATING MARKET/TEMPLE OF THE DAWN - AN EARLY MORNING BOAT TRIP ACROSS THE CHAT PHAYA RIVER TO SEE VENDORS HAWKING THEIR PRODUCTS AND TO VIEW THE FAMOUS TEMPLE OF THE DAWN. FLOATING MARKET IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE BUT TRIP THROUGH KLONGS IS INTERESTING.

JIM THOMPSON HOUSE - AUTHENTIC THAI STYLE HOUSE BUILT BY THE AMERICAN WHO MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED OVER A DECADE AGO. IT HOUSES AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF THAI ARTIFACTS COLLECTED BY THOMPSON.

ANCIENT CITY - REPLICAS OF THAI HOUSES, TEMPLES AND OTHER EXAMPLES OF THAI ARCHITECTURE, THAI ARTIFACTS. (ANCIENT CITY IS LOCATED NEAR PAK NAM WHERE THE CODEL WILL BE HAVING LUNCH ON MONDAY, JULY 11 TO WHICH WIVES ARE INVITED. A BRIEF STOP EN ROUTE FROM PAK NAM TO BANGKOK COULD EASILY BE ARRANGED.)

THAI RESTAURANTS/CLASSICAL DANCING - THERE ARE SEVERAL THAI STYLE RESTAURANTS WHICH PROVIDE THAI CLASSICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DANCING AND MUSIC WITH DINNER.

2. RMS. O'DONOHUE WOULD BE PLEASED TO GIVE INFORMAL LUNCHEON FOR THE LADIES ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, JULY 7 OR 8 IF DESIRED. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY OF THE VISITS MENTION IN PARA 1

CAN BE MADE AFTER ARRIVAL.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WHETHER OR NOT THE LADIES WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE RIVER TOUR ABOARD CUSTOMS PARTOL BOAT AND HAVE LUNCH AT PAK NA WHICH IS PART OF THE CODEL SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, JULY 10 (REF B).

O'DONOHUE

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